Free Nutritious Foodgrains to TB Patients

†1265. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any national scheme to provide free nutritious foodgrains to the poor TB patients in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Research studies have proved that provision of good nutritious food does not alter or improve the treatment outcome of TB. The only effective means of ensuring the cure of TB patients in the community is to give regular and full course of treatment under direct observation. The Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP) ensures that each and every patient receives the full course of quality treatment, free of cost. In addition, under the RNTCP treatment is delivered as close to the patient as possible *via* a network of DOT Providers. As a result the cure rate under RNTCP is about 85% as compared to less than 40% under the previous Programme. The provision of food will not add any further benefit to cure rates. Moreover the long term sustainability of any such incentive also needs to be kept in view.

Sale of **Synthetic Milk**

1266. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Ministerof HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of synthetic milk sold in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the sale of synthetic milk in the country is on the rise; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by his Ministry or proposed to be taken to curb the sale of synthetic milk in the country?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) There is no such thing as synthetic milk. However, sometimes milk may be adulterated by addition of chemical substances. As per information received from states it does not appear to be any rise.

(c) Sale of milk and milk products containing substances not found in milk except as prescribed in the PFA Rules, is already prohibited under the provisions of the PFA Act, 1954. All State Governments have been repeatedly requested to take necessary action to keep strict vigil on the quality of milk particularly for presence of chemical substances.

Research on weed Marmijua

1267. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any research on the medical qualities of the weed Marmijua; and

(b) if so, the details of the research?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha have informed that they have no such information.

News Item "Drugs Expired before Date"

1268. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Drugs expired before date", which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times', dated the 24th October, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to ensure that Drug testing is done in a regular manner by a Drug Inspector in every State; and

(d) whether Government propose to amend the rules in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA); (a) Yes Sir.